

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord of our lives, may we approach You this day with earnest and truthful hearts. May we be eager to obey Your laws, desirous for Your company among us, and committed to remain loyal in our service to You and to this Nation.

Enable us to keep Your commands ever before us, like lenses through which we look to determine our steps; like reminders written on our hands, so that we cannot ignore them.

And when we walk these halls or take our seats in meeting rooms or rise to speak in these Chambers, may we pause to realize that You are here in our midst. Thus, may we not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought, but prudent in employing the opportunities You have entrusted to us.

Always and with sincerity, may we devote ourselves for Your intent for our lives, not with lipservice, but as ones totally beholden to You for all that we have. Today and every day, may we strive to do Your will with our whole heart.

In Your sovereign and gracious name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OUR VETERANS DESERVE ACCESS TO CARE

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today because our veterans deserve access to care at every corner of the country as they have selflessly defended this country.

After Express Scripts, who manages the TRICARE benefit on behalf of the

DOD, instituted network changes that cut out thousands of community pharmacies last year, my office received dozens of calls from veterans who are unable to access their prescriptions.

Our local pharmacies have the drugs these veterans need now, but unless there are changes from the DOD that provide access that is actually adequate, our veterans cannot access the medications they need from community pharmacies.

While the DOD drags their feet, veterans are being refused lifesaving medicines and offered unacceptable alternatives to the care they used to be able to receive.

Mr. Kimsey, a veteran from Warner Robins, Georgia, is one of the many patients in my district who this new rule affected. Mr. Kimsey is a cancer patient at Central Georgia Cancer Care and is taking a chemo drug. He has been on this medication for about a year and was told that TRICARE would no longer pay for the medication at the local pharmacy. He called my office after trying to fill his prescriptions and only had five pills left of this critical drug.

The new DOD-approved pharmacy said they could mail the drug to him in 10 days, but he couldn't wait 10 days. This is just one example of why community pharmacists are so vital to patients, especially in rural areas.

MASS SHOOTING IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on May 14, 2022, a racist mass shooting took place at a supermarket in my home community of Buffalo, New York.

Armed with an assault weapon, the shooter killed 10 people and injured three more in just 2 minutes and 3 seconds; one shooter.

We continue to mourn, and we continue to struggle to move on. Sadly, we are not the only community facing this challenge. Horrific mass shootings have taken place in Uvalde, Texas; Highland Park, Illinois; Colorado Springs; Raleigh, North Carolina; Monterey Bay and Half Moon Bay, California.

Last year we passed the bipartisan Safe Communities Act. This was an important step, but more needs to be done. As we mark National Gun Violence Survivors' week, we must honor those impacted by shootings by continuing to deliver legislation that will save lives.

I am proud to support a Federal assault weapons ban, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FRANKLIN GUTIERREZ, JR.

(Mr. MOYLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOYLAN. I would like to take this time to honor and wish Franklin Gutierrez, Jr., a happy birthday.

Over the weekend, Frankie G., who is one of Guam's legendary musicians, turned the big 5-0.

For decades, Mr. Gutierrez has not only entertained many with his vocal gifts, but he has also nurtured a future generation of musicians in Guam. His band, Rumblefish, is an island icon. Frankie G. is more than just a musician. He is a proud husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend.

Frankie G. has also served his island as an officer with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency. He has proudly protected our borders while putting himself in harm's way. From the Halls of the United States House of Representatives, I wish Frankie G. a happy 50th birthday.

END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, my two sisters are public school teachers. They taught me that school breakfast and lunches are every bit as important as a textbook or a laptop to that child's ability to learn.

During the pandemic, Congress wisely provided 30 million kids free meals at school, but last spring that provision expired.

Most schools had to go back to onerous paperwork and millions of kids stopped getting free meals. I urge USDA to make it easier for States to adopt universal school meals, including by lowering the threshold for community eligibility.

California, Maine, and soon Colorado already made universal school meals permanent. Three other States, including Massachusetts, have extended universal meals through this school year.

Massachusetts is working to make the program permanent with legislation recently introduced by State Rep. Andy Vargas and State Senator Sal DiDomenico.

Madam Speaker, we have a sacred responsibility to keep kids fed, and I am hopeful that one day soon we can pass a universal school meals bill here in the United States Congress. Together, we can end hunger now.

THE PANDEMIC IS OVER

(Mr. BEAN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have breaking news: The pandemic has ended. It seems that everyone knows the pandemic is over, except the White House.

Despite the fact that the President said in an interview last September on "60 Minutes" the pandemic has ended,

the public health emergency has been extended again for the twelfth time.

Madam Speaker, it is past time to end this blatant Federal overreach, and that is exactly what we are going to do. This week, House Republicans will vote to repeal the public health emergency, stop the forced vaccination of our healthcare workers, and finally get Federal workers back to their offices to serve the American people.

It is time to restore individual liberty to the American people so the American people, not the Federal Government, can make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

NATIONAL SALES TAX OF 30 PERCENT

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, extreme MAGA Republicans have an economic plan that will hurt working families. House Republicans are set to advance a new 30 percent national sales tax.

Let me repeat that: 30 percent national sales tax.

This will increase the average family's cost for groceries and everyday essentials by about \$100 every single month.

On top of that, they want to cut Social Security, cut Medicare. Working families will lose their hard-earned benefits.

They are putting their special interests over the working class. They are putting special interests over people.

Rest assured, Madam Speaker, no matter what extreme MAGA Republicans do, House Democrats will continue to fight for working families. It is the middle class that makes our country strong. We will be there to put them over politics. We will be there to put people first.

OUR NATION IS CURRENTLY \$31 TRILLION IN DEBT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, our Nation is currently \$31 trillion in debt. Unfunded liabilities, meaning debt we can't fund, are almost \$124 trillion.

For the past 2 years, Democrat majorities have added \$300 billion in new extra Federal spending. This level of spending is actually driving inflation. It is fueling runaway inflation that is driving up the price of everything from gasoline—we have known about that for a long time—to eggs, which seems to be a more recent phenomena.

Why do we have to keep doing this? We shouldn't. America is the land of plenty. America is the land of innovation. We can produce anything we want. We can innovate new and better ways to do it in this country. We are

being hampered by government, regulations, lack of planning. Overspending by government has taken away the initiative of people to be able to do things on their own instead of being harmed by government spending and regulation.

We have to address Washington, D.C.'s, reckless spending, which is driving inflation and a massive amount of debt. If the interest rates keep going up, we won't even be able to service the debt the way we should.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a major legislative win which was the designation of the National Heritage Area Act for my home of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.

I thank Senator ANGUS KING for his support, who introduced the Senate companion bill, which was signed into law by President Biden.

St. Croix, with its place of landing, is the only place in the United States in which Christopher Columbus actually set his foot. It is home to native Caribs, as well as Taino Indians, who engaged and fought with Christopher Columbus. It is the home of Alexander Hamilton. We have a history of enslavement and struggle to maintain our African ancestors' culture on that island.

Seven nations have owned the U.S. Virgin Islands at one point or another, adding to a rich blend of many cultures and ideas; the epitome of Americanism, how the innovation and continual change in our country takes place.

St. Croix's National Heritage Area designation is the culmination of nearly 20 years of advocacy and work. We look forward to what it brings to our island.

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REDUCING THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, this week, Americans are hearing about yet another battle over the debt ceiling, a fiscal restraint that was supposed to stop Congress from spending too much.

Every couple of years, Congress basically gives itself a free pass and votes to raise the debt ceiling, kicking the can down the road. With a national debt over \$31 trillion, this is a game our country cannot afford to keep playing.

Today, President Biden is set to miss his budget deadline as required by law for the third consecutive year. I would love to see us actually handle the budget one item at a time rather than in a typical omnibus.

Vilification of debt control and protecting our future generations is not where this discussion should start. We are not going to get rid of this deficit in 1 year, but we can get rid of something this year. Can we at least have a small step toward reducing our national debt for the future of our children?

Hardworking American families have balanced budgets every month, every year, and they deserve a government that does the same.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 7, RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MARCH 13, 2020; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 139, STOPPING HOME OFFICE WORK'S UNPRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS ACT OF 2023; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 382, PANDEMIC IS OVER ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 497, FREEDOM FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 75 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 75

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 7) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 139) to require Executive agencies to submit to Congress a study of the impacts of expanded telework and remote work by agency employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and a plan for the agency's future use of telework and remote work, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 382) to terminate the public health emergency declared with respect to COVID-19. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered